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Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 10 December 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the Declaration of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see annex).

Furthermore, I kindly request that the aforementioned document be circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda item 64.

(*Signed*) Ileana **Núñez Mordoche**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba
to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

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Declaration of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

New York, 10 December 2008

1. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

2. The theme chosen last year for the campaign towards this commemoration, "Dignity and Justice for All", reflects adequately the spirit of the wish and the commitment of all members of the Non-Aligned Movement to contributing to a world free from injustices, where dignity and respect is a reality for all human beings, without distinction as to as to race, sex, language, religion or social origin.

3. Bearing this in mind, the Non-Aligned Movement wishes to highlight once again the importance of implementing all the human rights elements contained in the principal documents guiding the positions of NAM, in particular the Final Document of the 14th Conference of Heads of the State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September 2006 as well as the Final Document of the recently held 15th Ministerial Conference of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 29 and 30 July 2008.

4. The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms and underscores the Movement's abiding faith in and strong commitment to its Founding Principles, one of which is the respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms the significant importance attached by the Movement to the promotion and protection of human rights and commitment to fulfill obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the UN Charter, other instruments relating to human rights, as appropriate, and international law, as clearly stated in the outcomes of all its Conference Summits and Ministerial meetings, including the Havana Summit in September 2006.

6. The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms further that all human rights, in particular the right to development, are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, dialogue-based approach, in a fair and equal manner, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural particularities of each country. In this regard, they reiterated the Movement's dismay and unequivocal condemnation of gross and systematic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and situations that constitute serious obstacles to their full enjoyment, as well as violent acts and activities that infringe upon their full enjoyment.

7. The Non-Aligned countries takes this opportunity to re-emphasize that the exploitation of human rights for political purposes, including selective targeting of individual Countries for extraneous considerations, which is contrary to the Founding Principles of the Movement and the UN Charter, should be prohibited. They urge that, in the discussions on human rights, adequate attention be given to the issues of poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, instability and foreign occupation that engender social and economic exclusion and violation of human dignity and human rights, which cannot be divorced from any meaningful discussion relating to human rights.

8. The Non-Aligned Movement stresses the fundamental and inalienable right of all peoples, including all non-self governing territories, as well as those territories under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination to self determination, the exercise of which, in the case of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, remains valid and essential to ensure the eradication of all these situations and to guarantee universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

9. The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms that democracy and good governance at the national and international levels, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Adoption, for any cause or consideration, of coercive unilateral measures, rules and policies against the developing countries constitute flagrant violations of the basic rights of their populations. It is essential for States to promote efforts to combat extreme poverty and hunger (MDGs 1) as well as foster participation by the poorest members of society in decision-making processes.

10. The Non-Aligned countries reiterate the need for efforts to further strengthen and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the establishment of democratic institutions and sound economic policies responsive to the needs of the people. In this context, they also reiterate the need for the core principles, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international co-operation, including partnership and commitments in the international financial, monetary and trading systems, and full and effective participation of developing countries in decision-making and norm setting.

11. The Non-Aligned Movement has agreed on measures such as promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all peoples, in particular the right to development, and providing an effective framework thereof including remedies to redress grievances on or violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the relevant Founding Principles of the Movement, the UN Charter and international human rights instruments, consistent with the obligations of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

12. The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration provides an opportunity for the international community to reflect on the complex situations that we are witnessing every day in our world, which affect the full enjoyment of all human rights. In this context, the Non-Aligned Movement renews its commitment, on this significant anniversary, to give effect to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

13. In promoting a world of dignity and respect for all, the international community can always count on the firm support and commitment of the Non-Aligned Movement.